



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/661,805	09/12/2003	Kishore Swaminathan	10022/385	7380
28164	7590	08/02/2006	EXAMINER	
ACCENTURE CHICAGO 28164 BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE P O BOX 10395 CHICAGO, IL 60610			PARDO, THUY N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2165	

DATE MAILED: 08/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/661,805

Applicant(s)

SWAMINATHAN ET AL.

Examiner

Thuy N. Pardo

Art Unit

2165

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 20-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 18 and 19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 20-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 9/12/2006 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/15/2003.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Applicant's response to Examiner's Election/Restriction requirement filed on May 08, 2006 has been reviewed. Group I consisting of claims 1-17 and 20-30 has been elected.
2. Claims 1-17 and 20-30 are presented for examination.

***Drawings***

New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because the drawings are informal. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Glass et al. (Hereinafter "Glass") US Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0060643.

As to claim 1, Glass teaches the invention substantially as claimed, comprising:

a) determining, automatically, a level of similarity between at least two of a plurality of discrete elements stored in the document repository [determining a level of a document similarity by comparing the unclassified document to a predetermined threshold, see the abstract; 0196-0199; 0376]; and

b) storing data representative of a link between the elements based in-part on the level of similarity [the classification of the most significantly resembling sample document is assigned to the unclassified document, see the abstract; 0375-0376; 0390].

As to claim 2, Glass teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Glass further teaches that the document repository includes documents of at least one type selected from the group comprising a plain text document, a formatted text document, a presentation with discrete pages or slides, a diagram, a spreadsheet, programming code, a semi-structured document database, a text document with mark-up language tags, and a fully structured relational database [email message and HTML tags, 0215; 0247].

As to claim 4, Glass teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Glass further teaches displaying the link on a display [0250-0255; 0299-0301; 0404].

As to claim 4, Glass teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Glass further teaches that the document repository includes at least two physical repositories [0283; 0250].

As to claim 5, Glass teaches the invention substantially as claimed. Glass further teaches classifying the plurality documents as belonging to one category of a plurality of predetermined categories, the classification being based on at least one of the group comprising a format for the document, a physical structure for the document, a logical structure for the document, a size of the document, a location where the document is stored, and a content of the document.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3, 6-17 and 20-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Glass et al. (Hereinafter "Glass") US Patent Publication No. 2005/0060643 in view of Wical US Patent No. 6,460,034.

As to claim 3, Glass teaches the invention substantially as claimed, with the exception of retrieving a document from the repository and determining a document type and a physical structure for the document; and identifying one or more conceptually meaningful segments (elements) within the document based on at least one of the document type and the physical structure. Wical teaches retrieving a document from the repository [ab] and determining a

Art Unit: 2165

document type and a physical structure for the document; and identifying one or more conceptually meaningful segments (elements) within the document based on at least one of the document type and the physical structure [processing documents in the content processing system that associates terms of the documents with categories of classification system, col. 4, lines 4-62; col. 9, lines 64 to col. 11, lines 12; col. 14, lines 56 to col. 16, lines 38].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add the limitations of Wical to Glass's system as an essential means to identify a plurality of documents relevant to the query.

As to claim 6, Glass and Wical teach the invention substantially as claimed. Wical further teaches retrieving a plurality of documents from a document repository [col. 23, lines 1-54]; segmenting at least two documents of the plurality of documents into a plurality of conceptually meaningful segments [groups IA, IB, IIA, col. 23, lines 1-53-4]; determining if a segment of one document is related to a segment of another document and storing data representative of the relationship [col. 24, lines 56 to col. 25, lines 6; 2, 3, 10 of fig. 4; 8 of fig. 9A; 8 of fig. 9B].

As to claims 7, 8 and 20, all limitations of these claims have been addressed in the analysis of 3 and 6 above, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

As to claim 9, Glass and Wical teach the invention substantially as claimed. Wical further teaches classifying the plurality of documents [fig. 8A-9C].

As to claim 10, Glass and Wical teach the invention substantially as claimed. Wical further teaches that the document repository is organized in accordance with a directory structure [fig. 8A-9C], and the step of classifying further comprises classifying the plurality of segments based in-part on the directory structure [see 8 of fig. 9A-9B].

As to claim 11, Glass and Wical teach the invention substantially as claimed. Wical further teaches that each document comprises a document name [fig. 9B], and the step of classifying further comprises classifying the plurality of segments based in part on the document name [part of the name “French”, fig. 9B].

As to claim 12, Glass and Wical teach the invention substantially as claimed. Glass further teaches classifying the plurality of segments as being a segment type selected from a group comprising requirement, design, code, testing, defects, issues and requests [0203; 0381].

As to claim 13, Glass and Wical teach the invention substantially as claimed. Wical further teaches that the step of classifying further comprises classifying the plurality of segments based in part on a plurality of classification keywords [col. 12, lines 46 to col. 13, lines 6; fig. 8A-9C].

As to claim 14, Glass and Wical teach the invention substantially as claimed. Wical further teaches comparing the plurality of segments [tables 14-17 of col. 23-24].

As to claim 15, Glass and Wical teach the invention substantially as claimed. Wical further extracting a plurality of terms from the segments [themes, tables 15-17 of col. 24]; and for each segment, determining the frequency of at least one of the plurality of words within the segment [col. 23, lines 3 to col. 24, lines 54].

As to claim 16, Glass and Wical teach the invention substantially as claimed. Wical further teaches performing a pair-wise cosine similarity analysis among the plurality of segments [col. 17, lines 62 to col. 19, lines 5].

As to claim 17, Glass and Wical teach the invention substantially as claimed. Glass further teaches that the document repository includes documents associated with a software project [0365-0366].

As to claims 21-30, all limitations of these claims have been addressed in the analysis above, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy N. Pardo whose telephone number is 571-272-4082. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

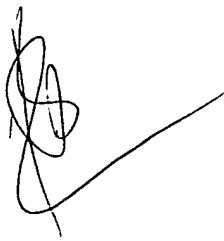
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on 571-272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



Art Unit: 2165

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

July 25, 2006



**THUY N. PARDO**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**